

Groton August 7th 1837

Monday morning.

Dear Caroline,

I designed writing to you several days since, but have waited from day to day first to see the end of one play and then of another. Sarah & Angelina arrived on Wed night and we had a most interesting time talking over matters & things, reading letters from the brethren &c. but I will not enlarge, for I wrote all this to Maria, & as Debora will be with you by the time you get this, she can tell you every thing I wrote. Thursday, I wrote by express a letter for Angelina & finished off a petition for Sarah & had much pleasant conversation with both. I felt some what pleased when the hour for meeting arrived for the "strike of tongues" in Groton had been put off, and the hearts of so many seemed failing them for fear, that I longed to have the matter over. The day before the Grimké's came, I went up to see Mr. Bugg, for the purpose of strengthening her. To this end I explained away all St Paul's verses that are "hard to be understood" and charged Mrs R now to hold on to her ground. I told her these were the "perilous times" and now she must stand to her arms. She behaved very boldly, and, indeed, I think very well of her courage, for probably no one in the female society dared to take the ground of defending women's preaching, save herself. The George Sailer was too shocked to go. Mr Phelps (the Groton minister) declined being in the pulpit with them or opening the meeting. But as Stanton arrived in the course of Thursday he agreed to open very pleasing. Accordingly off we all started on Thursday evening for the church. The Grimké's, Miss Grey, Henry Stanton & I driven in a carriage, the Dr's man; the Dr & Mary followed in the chaise. The house was thronged, fuller than it ever had been at any Abolition meeting known before. They and Stanton walked directly into the pulpit and after a few minutes, Stanton made one of the most excellent & to the purpose prayers that I ever heard. Angelina spoke on the topic, that the South never has been ready for emancipation; that circumstances have never been tending that way at all, and that consequently the Abolitionists

could not have put back what was never forward. She spoke
very well indeed, tho' I have heard her when I have been
more struck. Sarah, having a very bad cold, did not speak.
Friday morning Miss Capell, Mrs Rugg, Mrs Dix and a young
man from Dartmouth College called. I received Dr's letter while
in the midst of this goodly company, but had to wait in a perfect
silence until they were gone; I had a feeling as to what was in it. "A
Never was I gladder to hear news of that sort. I was so relieved
to learn that there was only one. I was busy part of Friday morning
writing notes of invitation as the Dr was determined to do all
his duty and give a party. When he gave me his list, I observed that
he had asked mainly the people that visited at the house gen-
erally and many good Abolitionists were left out. I remon-
strated against this and the Dr readily agreed to making the
party genuinely democratic. Accordingly, together with the
Tillers, Lottingshams, Dix's, Robinsons, Bancrofts &c. were asked
those who had hitherto appeared of less note, and in the whole, this
produced a party of 30 or 40. Miss Grey fell to work & made
custards & blancmange and the evening came, & so did the
folks. Almost all came that were asked, so that half the
room was composed of our right opposers. The Greenlie behaved
very well, talked pleasantly & fully with individuals & Clinger-
lina harangued circles of brethren which aroused some of the
women present to look on with gazing eyes. Stanton
acted very like himself, that is, refused to be introduced to any
body, or to contribute at all to any body's amusement.
The Dr thought that some of the aristocracy felt badly, not at
being brought into collision with Abolitionists, but with
Mr Harris, &c. I told him he was equal to me, if they all
fell into apoplexies. Saturday afternoon Stanton left us, having
I believe picked off 200 from the Dr. Money, money, being the
whole burden of his song. Saturday forenoon who should drive
up to the door but Mary Ann and her father. Her face was somewhat
flushed & had that indescribably worried look that features exhibit
when some thing is on the mind; her father was very courteous indeed,
but I perceived that it would not answer to utter the words
criminate on Abolition. The Dr was gone to

and Stanton with him to ride, & the Grimké's were upstairs writing. Mary came into the room and as my suspense soon became intolerable, I asked Mary Ann to go out with me. As soon as we were alone she burst forth; it appears, that the day before, at Dr Cutler's on her declining slave labour, some how or other, the mine exploded & I feel she had a good time "Don't ask me to tell you any more" said she "for if I talk I shall get to crying; I can't go to hear the Grimké's and father has forbid my coming over to Boston to stay, at all and he is not going to let me go back to you after vacation." I quieted & comforted her all I could, gave her free labour blanchet meringe & cake, and told her the storm would blow over. Pepperell I suppose was the worst place she could possibly be in, for the meeting house had been refused to the Grimké's, and therefore notice had been given that they would speak in a barn. With things in this state, of course there was not a soul in Pepperell whose feelings were not outraged to the utmost, & who more than the minister's right hand man Dr Cutler? I could not keep M. A. out long. After I returned, Angelina chanced to come in to the room. I introduced M. A. as a stranger to Miss G. & they met as such. M. A. in great politeness bowed, and she went in immediately & out. Mr. G. in answer to our invitation to M. A. to come to Boston said she would like to much, but that probably, her engagements would not permit. As she was going out however she whispered her thankfulness that he was going to Boston on Monday & after that she hoped just to ride over some morning. Tell him, I shall ride over there, and "He can't call Ensigns Bloomington to account" at least, I shall like to see him try. He had better attend to his family affairs in the West Indies. So tell you the truth, I could not hear him tho' his manner was polite in the extreme, but I suppose, I saw him in a prejudiced state of mind. In the afternoon, the Grimké's & I proceeded to Pepperell. He did not go, for he wished them going to do the work of the abolitionists there. Mr. Huntwell, a Pepperell man came & took Sarah, Cange & I in a carryall. The barn in which the meeting was held was a large one & picturesque & pretty it looked. There was nothing in it, no hay or weight of that kind

for I shall be pleased to see one happy
position if you do you or I should must attend
to it. Love to all the Durhams, specially to
Elizabeth. This is no small to I do you so I shall
say nothing I shall probably not write to you at
present again. ever truly yours M. Weston.

Ms. A. 9. 2. L. 9. p. 59.